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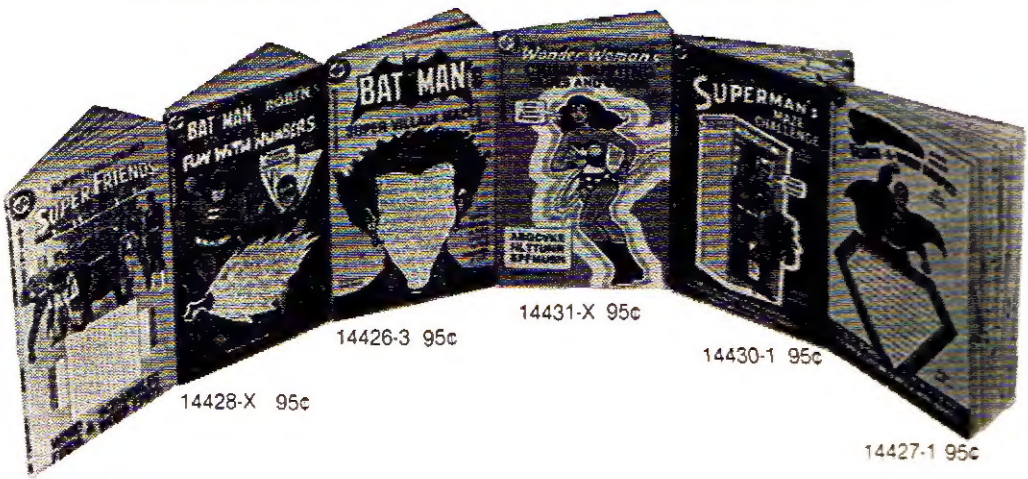

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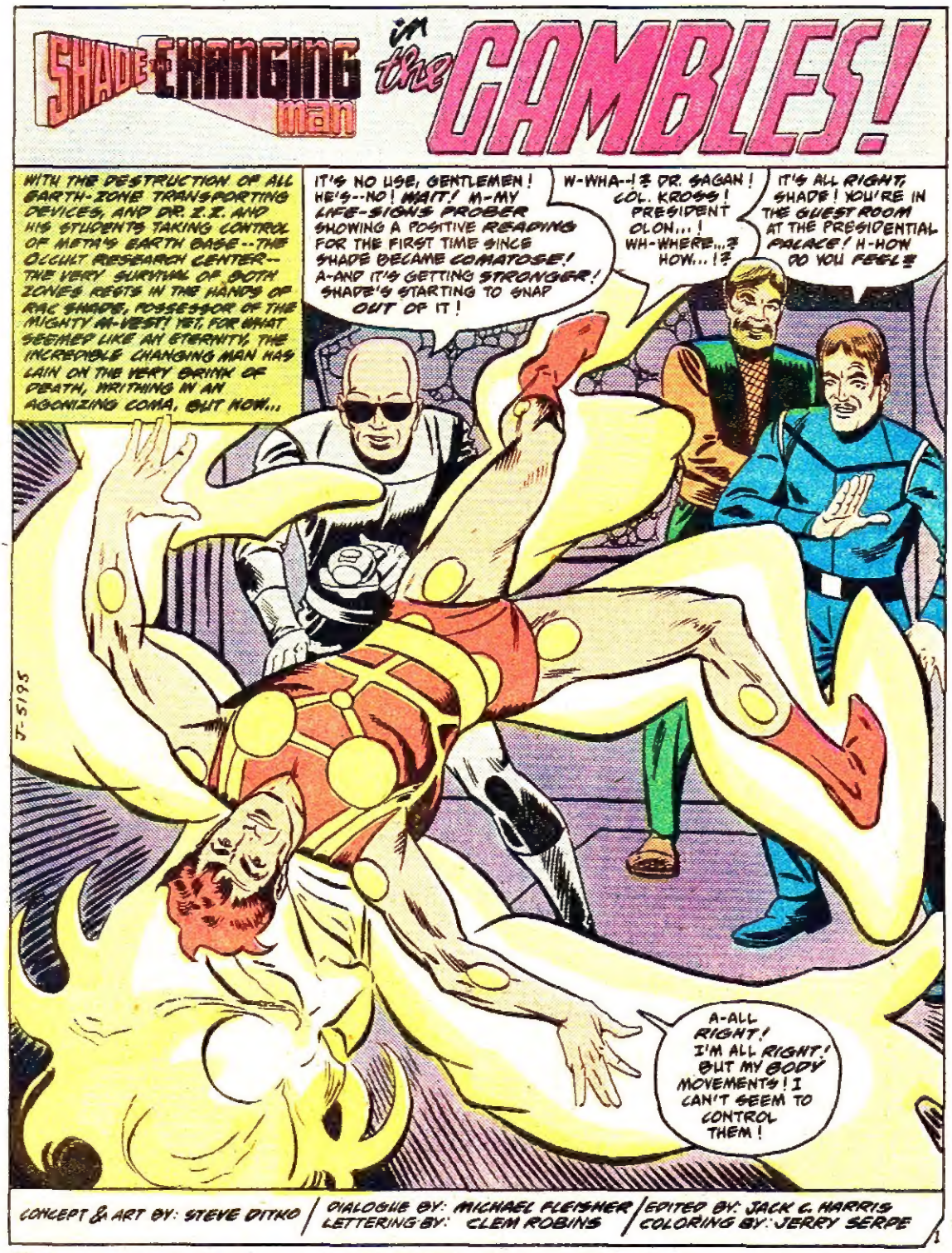

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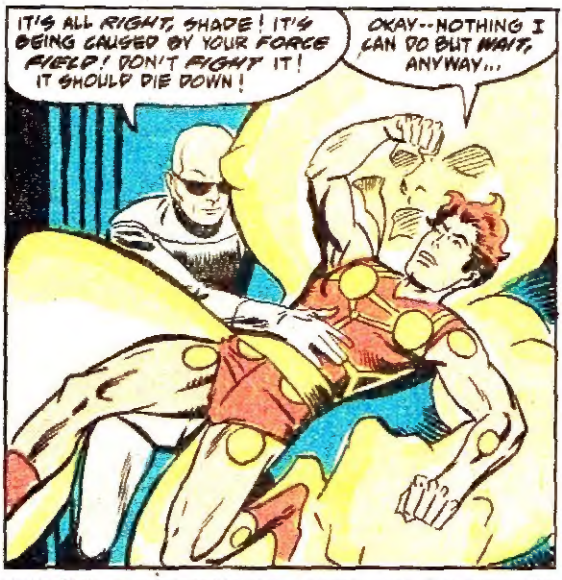
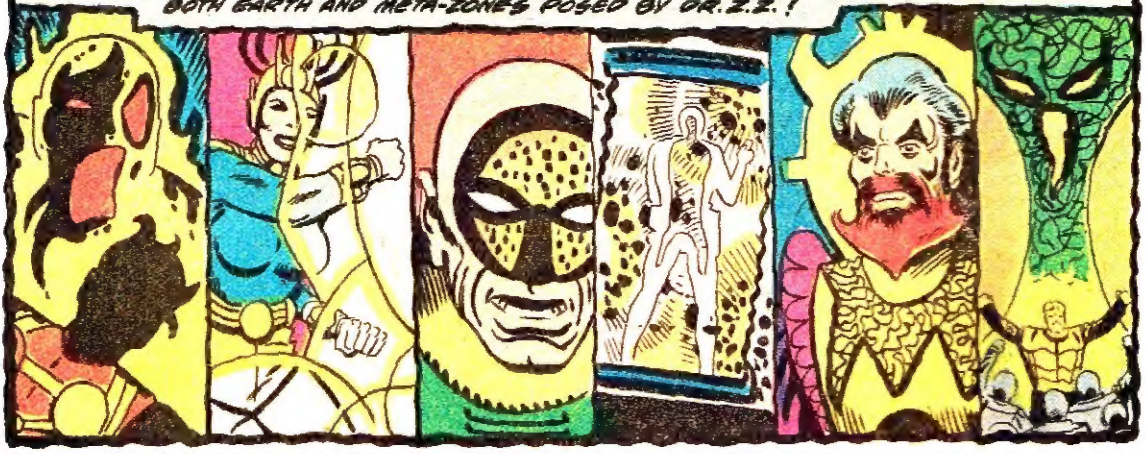
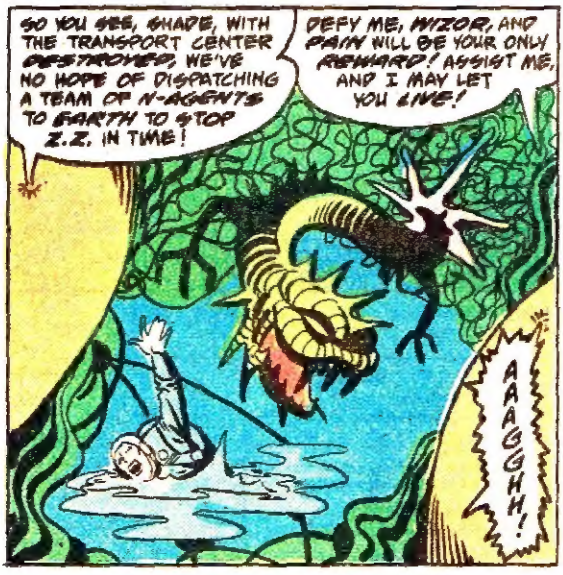
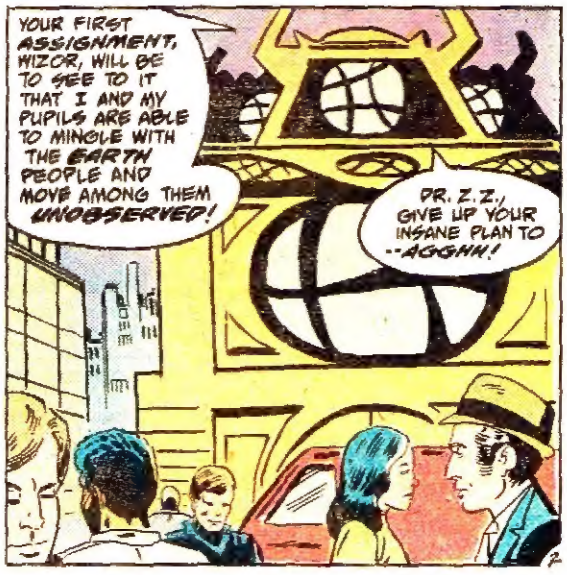


AND SO COL. KROSS TELLS RAC SHADE HOW HE DEFEATED KHAOS AND WAS PLUNGED INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE COLOR COMA; HOW MELLU CLEARED HIM OF THE MURDER OF CAPT. MAJAN; HOW DR. Z. Z. AND HIS PUPILS HAVE INVADED EARTH, DESTROYING ALL TRANSPORTING DEVICES TO PREVENT PURSUIT AND SEIZING CONTROL OF AGENT WIZOR'S OCCULT RESEARCH CENTER; AND, FINALLY, OF THE CRISIS MEETING OF THE METAN COUNCIL OVER THE THREAT TO BOTH EARTH AND META-ZONES POSED BY DR. Z. Z.!







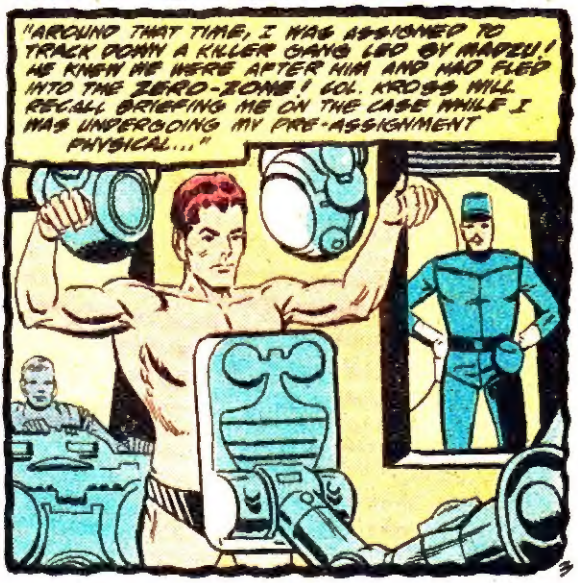
YOU WILL OBEY ME, NIZOR! IF NOT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, THEN FOR LENO'S! FOR IF YOU REFUSE, I WILL--
NO! STOP! LET HIM GO! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO!

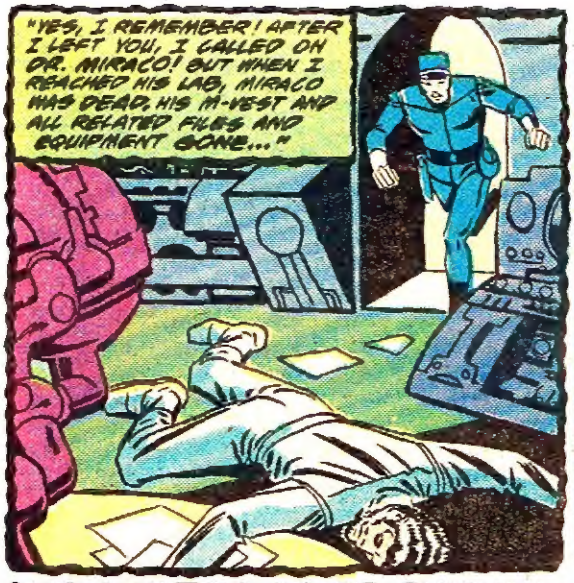
FIRST, WE MUST INFILTRATE THIS PLANET AND BUILD OUR POWER BASES! THE SOONER WE DO THAT, THE SOONER WE WILL MAKE OURSELVES MASTERS OF THE EARTH-ZONE!
I STILL HAVE ONE CHANCE TO STOP HIM--ONE SLIM CHANCE!

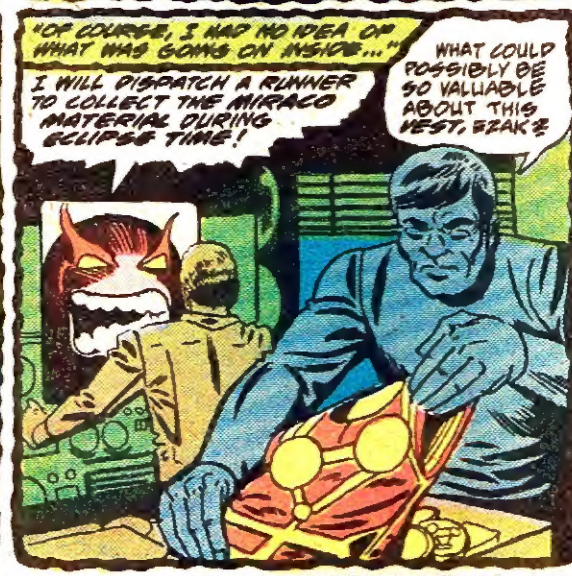
WE NEED NO LONGER FEAR INTERFERENCE FROM META, MY PUPILS! SO LET US NOW DEVOTE OUR ENERGY TO BECOMING "EARTHLINGS!"
YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE, SHADE! IF YOU FULLY RECOVERED, YOU COULD USE YOUR M-VEST TO REACH EARTH AND STOP DR. Z.Z.! BUT I MUST KNOW--HOW DID YOU COME TO POSSESS THE M-VEST?

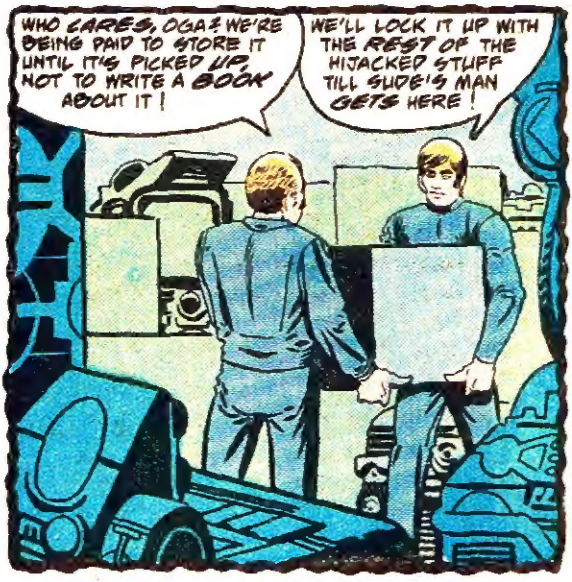
IT ALL STARTED WITH THE GOLA ZAE-CAPT. MAJAN CASE! COL. KROSS WILL REMEMBER IT! A SECRET CRIME RING WAS STAGING MASSIVE THEFTS OF SCIENTIFIC SECRETS AND EQUIPMENT! WE HAD TO FIND SOME WAY TO STOP THEM--AND UNMASK THEIR LEADER!

"A SCIENTIST NAMED GOLA ZAE WAS EVENTUALLY ARRESTED AND CONVICTED OF DEALING IN STOLEN SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT! HER LOVER, CAPT. MAJAN, WAS CLEARED! MAYBE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN! BECAUSE THE CRIME RING CONTINUED TO OPERATE..."


"AROUND THAT TIME, I WAS ASSIGNED TO TRACK DOWN A KILLER GANG LED BY MAPZU! HE KNEW WE WERE AFTER HIM AND HAD FLED INTO THE ZERO-ZONE! COL. KROSS WILL RECALL BRIEFING ME ON THE CASE WHILE I WAS UNDERGOING MY PRE-ASSIGNMENT PHYSICAL..."







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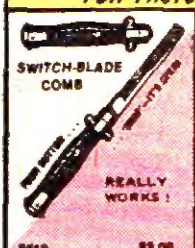

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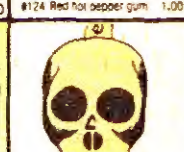

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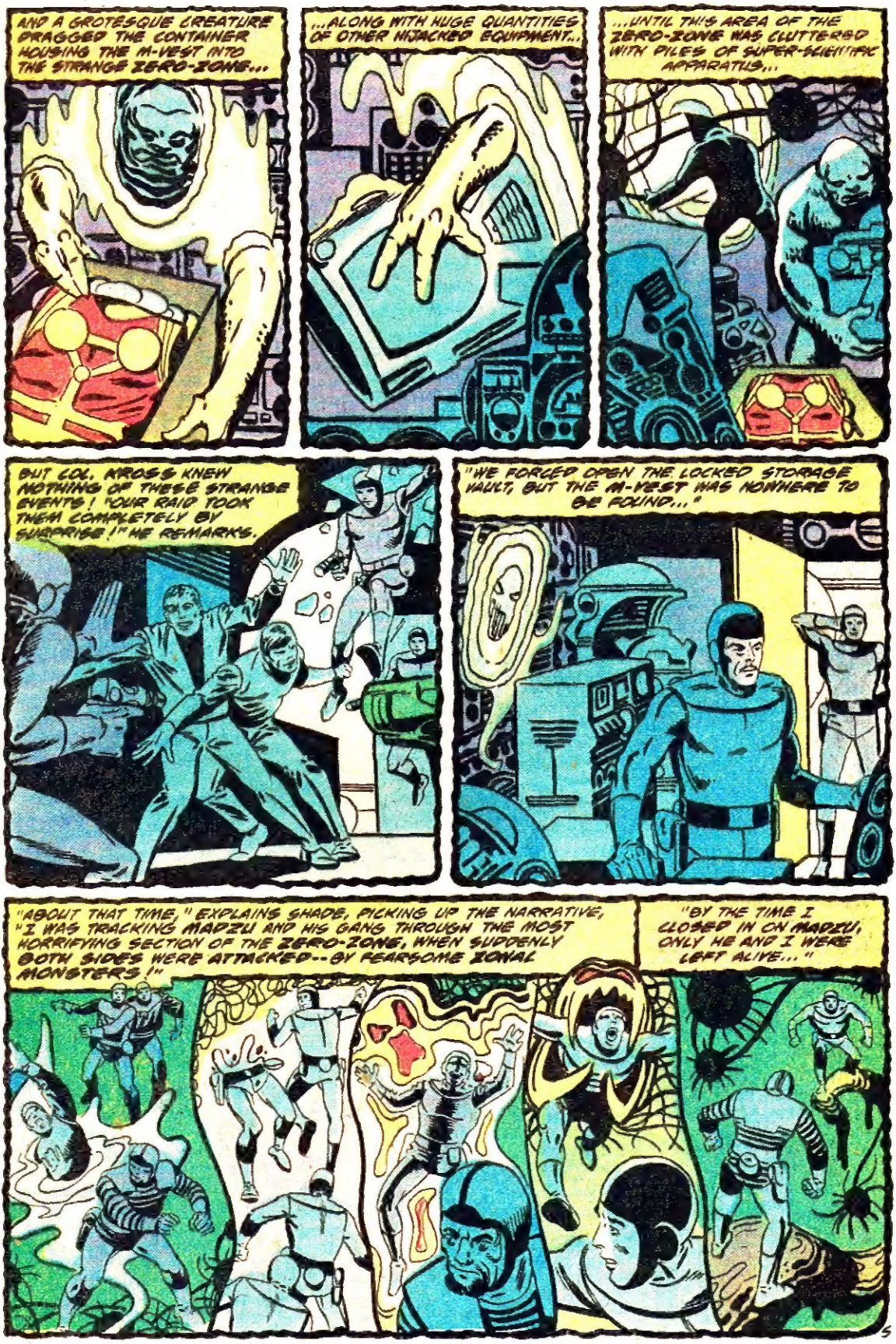

AND A GROTESQUE CREATURE DRAGGED THE CONTAINER HOUSING THE M-VEST INTO THE STRANGE ZERO-ZONE...
...ALONG WITH HUGE QUANTITIES OF OTHER HIJACKED EQUIPMENT...
...UNTIL THIS AREA OF THE ZERO-ZONE WAS CLUTTERED WITH PILES OF SUPER-SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS...
BUT COL. KROSS KNEW NOTHING OF THESE STRANGE EVENTS! "OUR RAID TOOK THEM COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE!" HE REMARKS.
"WE FORCED OPEN THE LOCKED STORAGE VAULT, BUT THE M-VEST WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND..."
"ABOUT THAT TIME," EXPLAINS SHADE, PICKING UP THE NARRATIVE, "I WAS TRACKING MADZU AND HIS GANG THROUGH THE MOST HORRIFYING SECTION OF THE ZERO-ZONE, WHEN SUDDENLY BOTH SIDES WERE ATTACKED--BY FEARSOME ZONAL MONSTERS!"
"BY THE TIME I CLOSED IN ON MADZU, ONLY HE AND I WERE LEFT ALIVE..."

"POWERLESS AGAINST THE RAVAGING ZONAL FORCES THAT DEVOURED ALL HIS MEN, MADZU STRUCK OUT AT ME--WITH THE STRENGTH AND SAVAGERY OF A DEMON...EVEN THOUGH IT MADE HIM RECKLESS AND VULNERABLE..."

"IT TOOK EVERY LAST OUNCE OF ENERGY I POSSESSED... TO DEFEAT HIM..."

"AND WHEN I FINALLY EMERGED FROM THE FRAY, DRAINED... TOTALLY EXHAUSTED..."

FLAME-HAIR! HOW DARE YOU VIOLATE THE DOMAIN OF XEXLO!

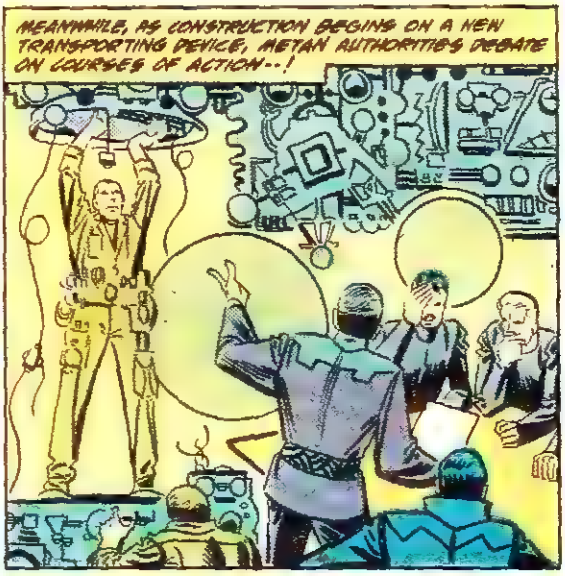
I MEAN NO OFFENSE TO YOU, GREAT XEXLO!

I HAVE COME HERE ONLY TO RID YOUR DOMAIN OF AN EVIL MURDERER WHO--

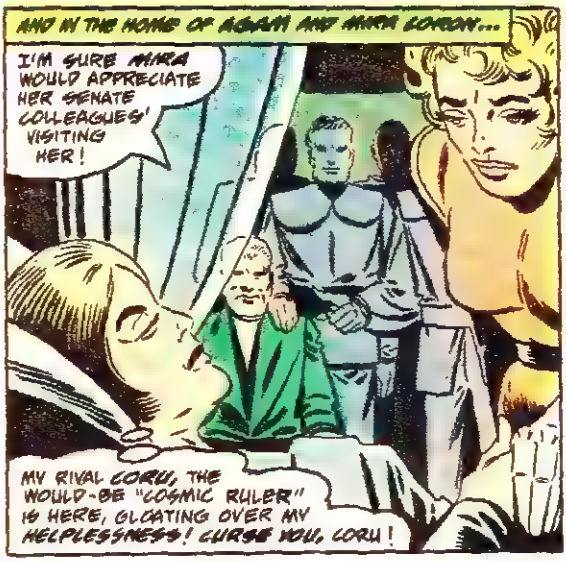
YOUR RESPECT DOES NOT APPEASE ME! I SAY THAT ALL CREATURES FROM BEYOND MY DOMAIN ARE MURDERERS!

SO BE FORE-WARNED, FLAME-HAIR! IF EVER YOU DARE TO RETURN HERE, I WILL KILL YOU! NOW GO!

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO SHADE? ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE JUST STOPPED TALKING!
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, COLONEL! AFTER ALL, HE'S BEEN THROUGH, OUR PATIENT HAS JUST FALLEN ASLEEP!

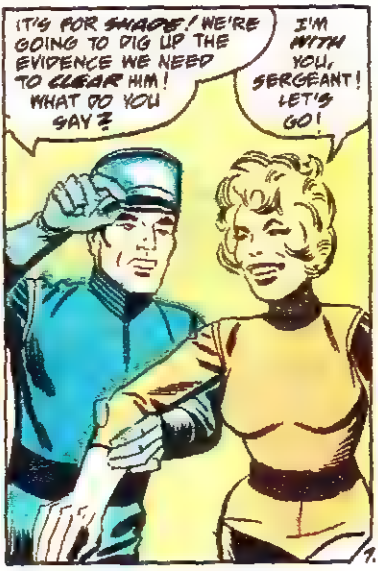

MEANWHILE, AS CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON A NEW TRANSPORTING DEVICE, METAN AUTHORITIES DEBATE ON COURSES OF ACTION--!

AND IN HIS OFFICE, COL. LOPAK SOLEMNLY PONDERS RECENT EVENTS...
COL. KROSS HASN'T BEEN SEEN OR HEARD FROM SINCE HE ENTERED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE! I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO SEARCH THERE, BUT SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON, AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT SOMETHING IS!


AND IN THE HOME OF AGAM AND MIRA LORON...
I'M SURE MIRA WOULD APPRECIATE HER SENATE COLLEAGUES' VISITING HER!
MY RIVAL CORU, THE WOULD-BE "COSMIC RULER" IS HERE, GLOATING OVER MY HELPLESSNESS! CURSE YOU, CORU!

I-I'LL KILL SLIDE FOR DOING THIS TO YOU, MOTHER! I--I SWEAR I WILL!
OH, MELLU! MY DARLING DAUGHTER! YOU MUST NEVER FIND OUT THAT I AM SLIDE!

COME ON, MELLU! WE'RE GOING TO ARRANGE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR A FRIEND OF OURS!
SGT. BARAK! WHAT IN THE NAME OF META ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


IT'S FOR SHADE! WE'RE GOING TO DIG UP THE EVIDENCE WE NEED TO CLEAR HIM! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'M WITH YOU, SERGEANT! LET'S GO!

WE'RE ALONE AT LAST, OH, SUDE? HOW I ENJOY WATCHING YOU LIE THERE, HELPLESS, WHILE I PERFECT MY SCHEMES FOR ACHIEVING TOTAL COSMIC POWER!

I MAY BE HELPLESS NOW, BUT I'LL KILL YOU YET, YOU FIEND!

HEH-HEH! REMEMBER HOW YOU TRIED TO DESTROY ME, SUDE? YOU FAILED, DIDN'T YOU? YET I COULD STRANGLE YOU NOW, BUT IT WOULD TAKE NO EFFORT!

YOU'D BE WISE TO KILL ME WHILE YOU STILL CAN, CORU!

IT WILL BE FAR MORE GRATIFYING TO LET YOU RECOVER SO THAT YOU CAN HELPLESSLY WITNESS MY MAJESTY AND POWER! HA HA HA!

GLOAT WHILE YOU CAN, CORU! WHEN I AM WELL AGAIN, I WILL DESTROY YOU!

SHADE, MEANWHILE, HAS AWAKENED AND RESUMED HIS STORY...

BY THE TIME I FINALLY GOT BACK FROM THE ZERO-ZONE WITH MADZU, COL. KROSS WAS FIT TO BE TIED!

HA! THAT'S A MILD WAY OF PUTTING IT! I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN SO FURIOUS!

GREAT FIRE, SHADE! YOU KNOW THAT STOLEN EQUIPMENT MY MEN AND I RECOVERED IN OUR RAID ON THE WAREHOUSE? WELL, NOW IT'S BEEN STOLEN AGAIN, RIGHT FROM THE SECURITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING!

OBVIOUSLY AN INSIDE JOB, COLONEL! BUT WHO?

"LATER, CAPT. MAJAN AND LT. BAIP ARRESTED THREE GUMROS AND TWO SECURITY AGENTS! BUT WE NEVER FOUND ANY HIGHER-UPS OR ANY OF THE STOLEN EQUIPMENT! THE ARRESTS WERE A CLEVER RUSE BY MAJAN AND BAIP TO CURRY FAVOR WITH HEADQUARTERS WHILE DIVERTING SUSPICION AWAY FROM THEMSELVES..."

"THAT WAS WHEN COL. KROSS FIRST LET ME READ THE MIRACO FILE! COL. KROSS WAS GOING TO ASSIGN ME TO THE MIRACO CASE AS SOON AS I'D RESTED UP FROM THE MADZU ASSIGNMENT..."

(CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING)

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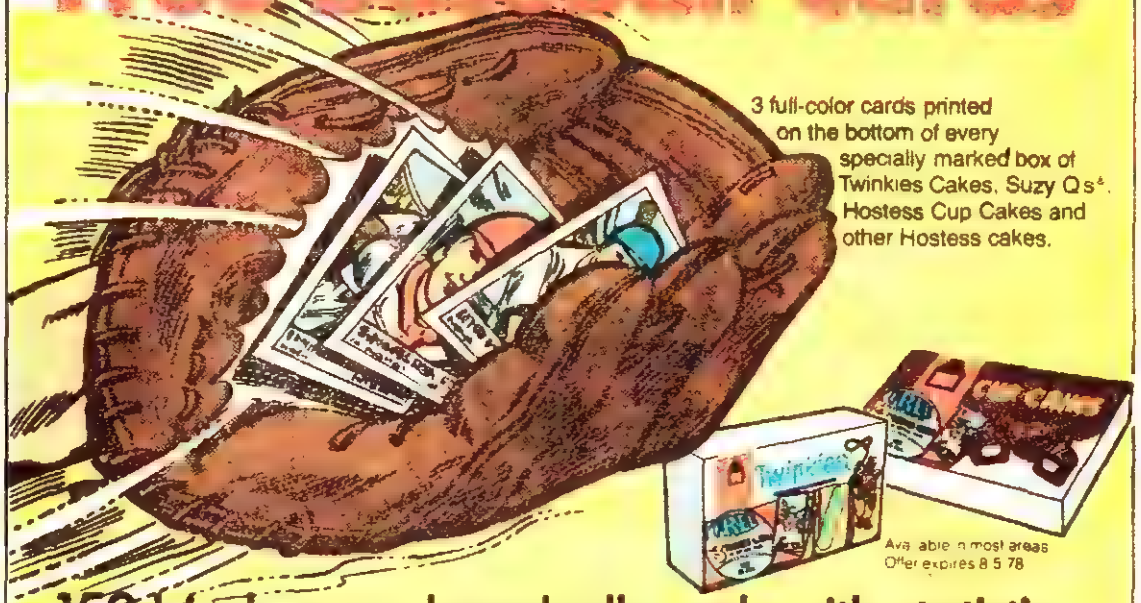

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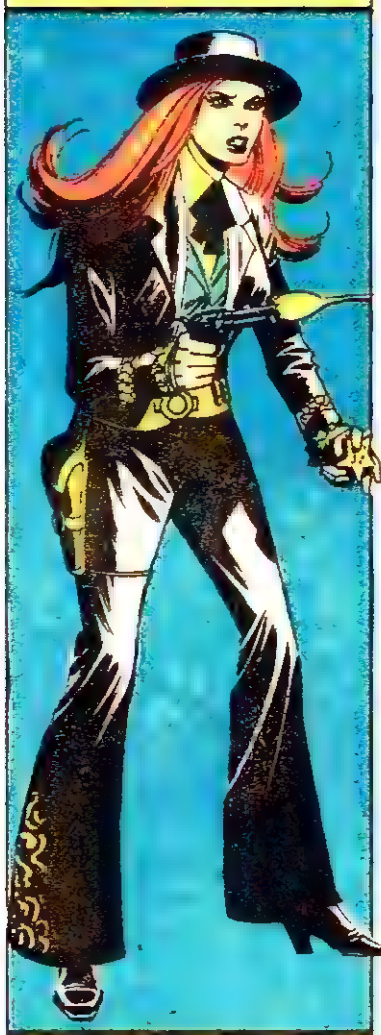
AND JACK ABEL



ADDS SPICE TO

WEIRD WESTERN TALES

SHAZAM!

BY E. NELSON BRIDWELL
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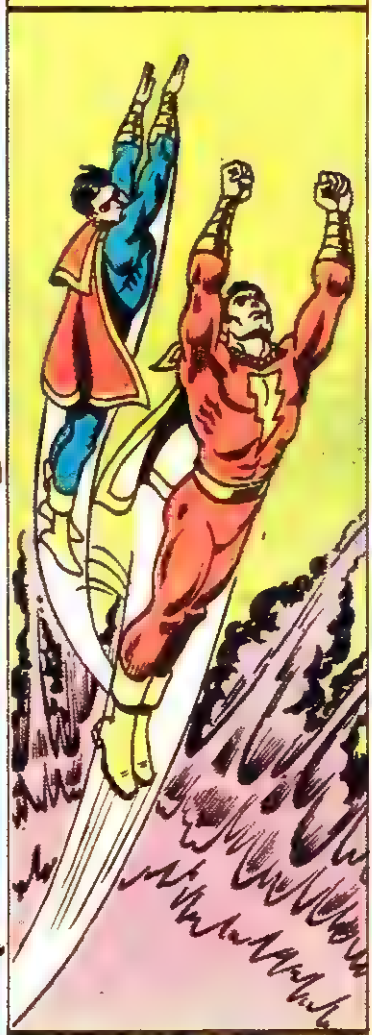
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER



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The HUMAN TARGET

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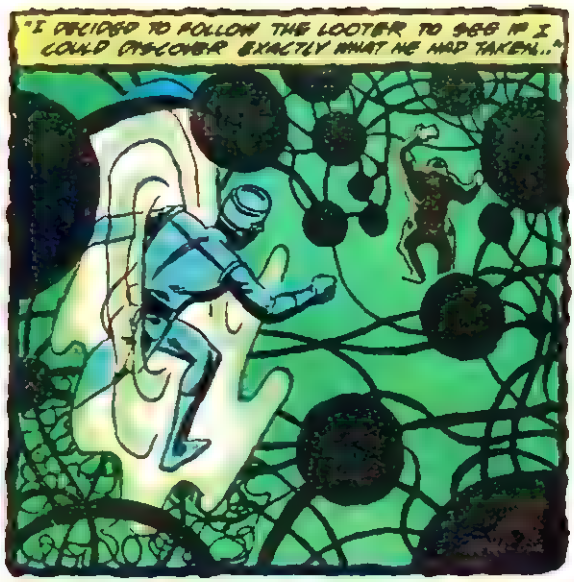
RETURNS TO ACTION IN

the BRAVE and the BOLD

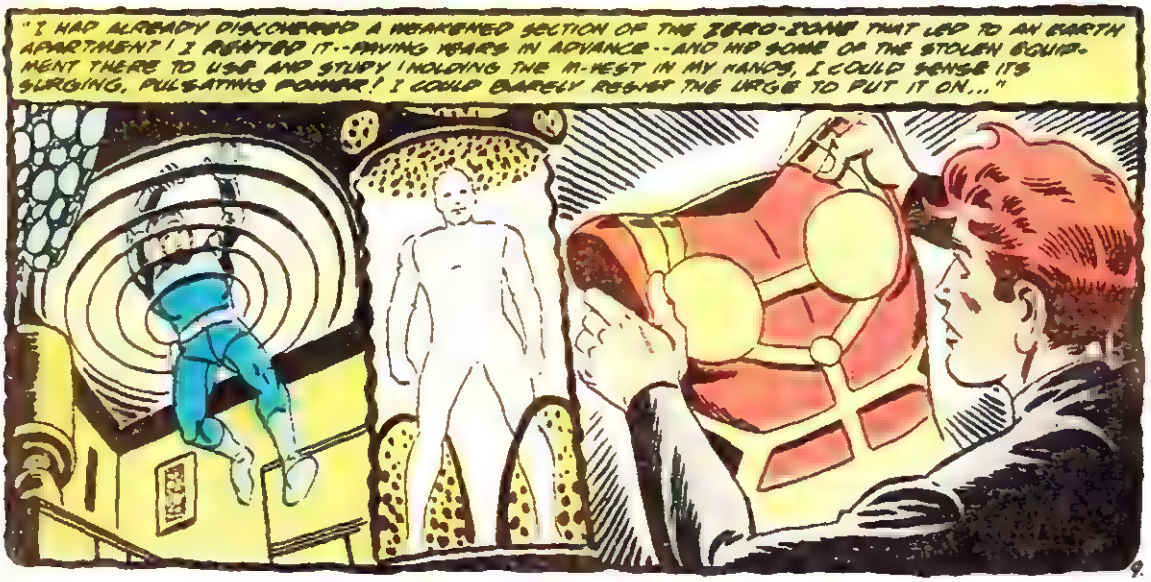
THE EXPLOSION!

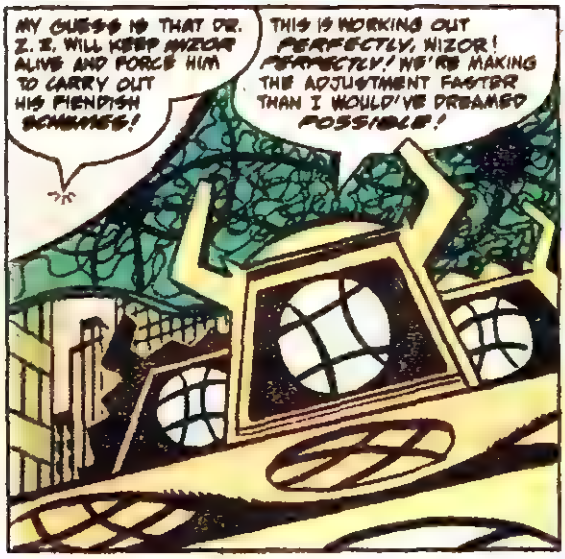
"AFTER REVIEWING THE FILE, I WENT TO THAT WAREHOUSE! I DISCOVERED A ZERO-ZONE SCAVENGER MAKING OFF WITH ANYTHING HE COULD GRAB..."

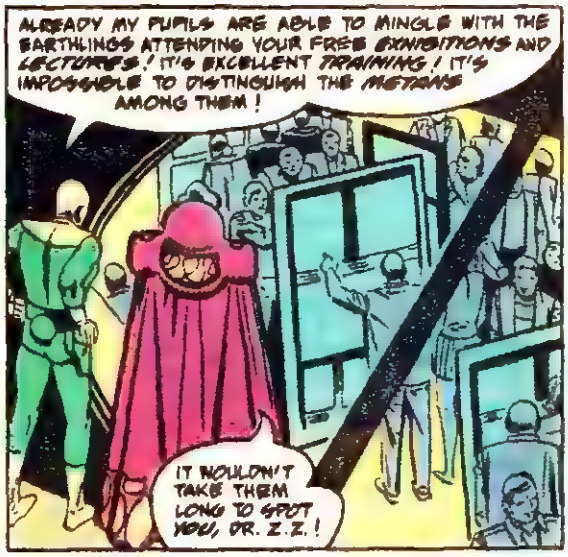

"I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE LOOTER TO SEE IF I COULD DISCOVER EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD TAKEN..."

"I WAS STAGGERED! HE'D BEEN A PRETTY BUSY FELLOW! HE'D STOLEN DR. MIRACO'S M-VEST AND A TON OF OTHER EQUIPMENT..."

"I DIDN'T DARE REPORT MY FIND TO HEADQUARTERS OR TURN IN THE EQUIPMENT! IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIJACKED AGAIN! FOR SAFEKEEPING, I HID IT IN A POISON AREA FOR RECOVERY AFTER THE CRIME RING WAS SMASHED AND IMPRISONED..."


"I HAD ALREADY DISCOVERED A WEAKENED SECTION OF THE ZERO-ZONE THAT LED TO AN EARTH APARTMENT! I RENTED IT--PAYING YEARS IN ADVANCE--AND HID SOME OF THE STOLEN EQUIPMENT THERE TO USE AND STUDY! HOLDING THE M-VEST IN MY HANDS, I COULD SENSE ITS SURGING, PULSATING POWER! I COULD BARELY RESIST THE URGE TO PUT IT ON..."





CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING

HOLY TASTE BUDS!! IT'S THE FAMOUS CLARK BAR SUPERHERO SWEEPSTAKES!

YOU COULD WIN A TRIP TO GOTHAM AND APPEAR IN A SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK!

Okay, all you characters out there. Here's your big chance to be a real character. Comic-book style.

You don't have to buy anything. Or do anything, except to mail us the Famous Clark Bar Superhero Sweepstakes entry blank with your name and address.

To find out what could be in it for you, just read on.

FIRST PRIZE

If you're lucky enough to win the first prize, Clark will fly you and your family (limit of four people) to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

We'll take you on a tour of the D C Comics offices, so an artist can draw you into an upcoming issue of your favorite D C comic book.

You'll be part of the action, right along with one of D C's famous comic-book superheroes.

You'll have plenty of free time in Gotham, too. For seeing the Statue of Liberty, or taking boat rides, or just looking up at tall buildings a lot and saying "Wow!"

And, when your comic-book adventure is published, we'll send you 15 copies for your family and friends. They'll be proud to know a famous person like you.

SECOND PRIZE

If you're one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your choice of Famous Superhero watches. Superman, Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, Batman, or (if your taste should happen to run to supervillains instead) the Joker. The watches are Swiss-made, with full-color superhero pictures, and would normally sell for $19.95 to $23.95.

THIRD PRIZE

If you're one of 100 third-prize winners, we'll send you a year's subscription to your favorite D C or Marvel comic book. The Incredible Hulk, Red Sonja, Thor, Green Lantern, Plastic Man, Captain America, Wonder Woman, Justice Society, Ms. Marvel, you name it. Even Little Lulu.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill in the entry blank (please print), and mail your entry to us before November 1, 1978.

Who knows? It could make you as famous as the Famous Clark Bars.

CLARK

THE FAMOUS CLARK BAR SUPERHERO SWEEPSTAKES!

P.O. Box SS Chicago, Illinois 60677

RULES

1. To enter, type or print clearly your name, address and zip code on this official entry blank, or on a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper. You can enter as many times as you want, but each entry must be mailed separately.
2. With each entry, send one wrapper from any Clark or Holloway candy product, or the words "FAMOUS CLARK BARS" printed on a separate piece of 3"x5" paper. (You can send wrappers from Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke, or Black Cow.)
3. Send entries to Superhero Sweepstakes, Box SS, Chicago, Illinois 60677.
4. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 10, 1978.
5. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted by H. Olsen & Company, an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final.
6. Prizes are non-transferable, and substitution of prizes is not allowed. Only one prize to a family. The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.
7. This sweepstakes is open to all U.S. residents, except employees (and their immediate families) of Beatrice Foods, its advertising agencies, and H. Olsen & Company. Void in Missouri, and wherever else prohibited by law. Subject to all Federal, state and local laws and regulations.
8. If you want a list of winners, send a separate stamped, self-addressed envelope to Box 6200, Chicago, Illinois 60677.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

106

The D.L. Clark Company, A Division of Beatrice Foods

Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman and Robin. © Copyright 1978 DC Comics Inc.

BE A WINNER ALL YEAR LONG, WITH WRAPPERS FROM FAMOUS CLARK BARS!

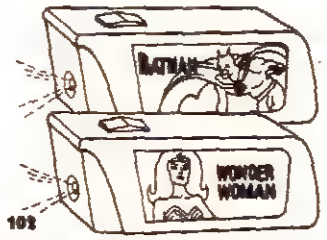
Okay. What you just read about was a contest. This isn't.

What this is, is a terrific way to get Famous Superhero premiums any time you want them. By collecting wrappers from any of the Famous Clark and Holloway products. Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke, or Black Cow.

Here's what you can get. The order blank is on the next page.

101

ZING WINGS. Plastic flying saucer. Batman, Superman, or Spider-Man. Each, $1.75 plus 2 wrappers.



102

FLASHLIGHTS. Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman. Includes Penlite battery.
Each, $1.25 plus 2 wrappers.

103

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104

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105

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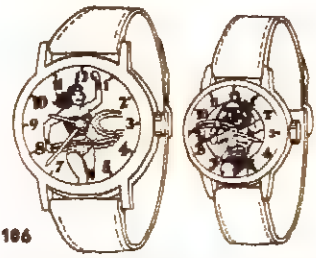

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Each, $14.25 plus 12 wrappers.

107

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108

SUPERLAMPS. Light up your room with Batman, Wonder Woman or Superman, in full color on a 17-inch-high table lamp.
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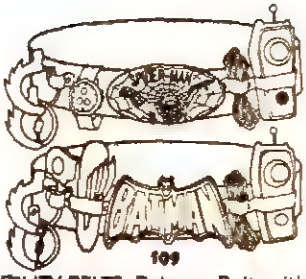


109

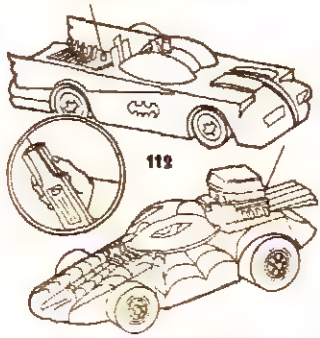
UTILITY BELTS. Batman Belt with communicator, bat clicker gun, bat cuffs, bat grappler. Spider-Man Belt with communicator, spider web, grappler, hand cuffs, watch.
Each, $4.75 plus 4 wrappers.

110

SUPER PARACHUTISTS. Superhero parachutists with launchers. Superman, Batman, Spider-Man.
Each, $1.75 plus 2 wrappers.

111

SUPERHERO STAMP SET. Has eight different superheroes.
$1.50 plus 2 wrappers.



112

RADIO CONTROL VEHICLES. The Batmobile, or Spider-Man's car. Each is 12" long, with forward and reverse action, controlled by single-channel radio transmitter (no batteries included).
Each, $12.95 plus 12 wrappers.

THE FAMOUS CLARK BAR SUPERHERO ORDER BLANK!

To order, just fill in the numbers (#101, #102, etc.) of the premiums you want, along with quantity, price, number of wrappers enclosed, and which superhero you want (on items that have a choice). Send this order blank with a check or money order (please don't send cash) and the right number of wrappers to: Superheroes, Box 6366, Chicago, Illinois 60677.

QUANTITY	NUMBER	SUPERHERO	#WRAPPERS	PRICE
		TOTALS		

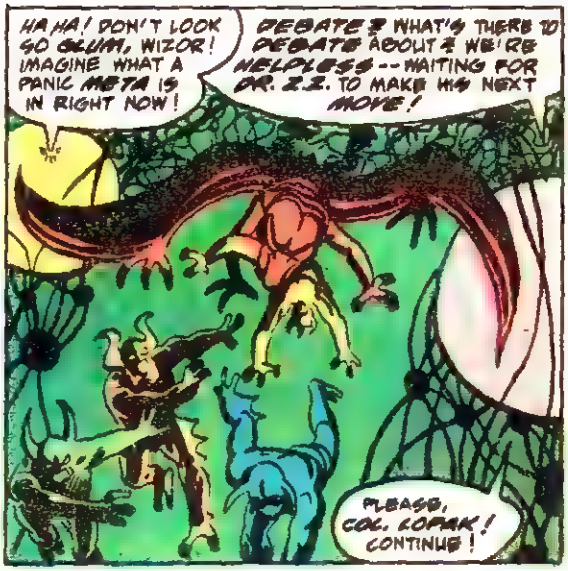
NAME _____

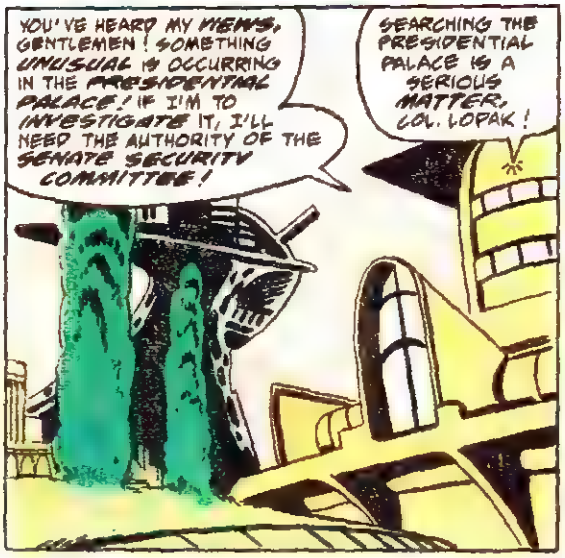
ADDRESS _____

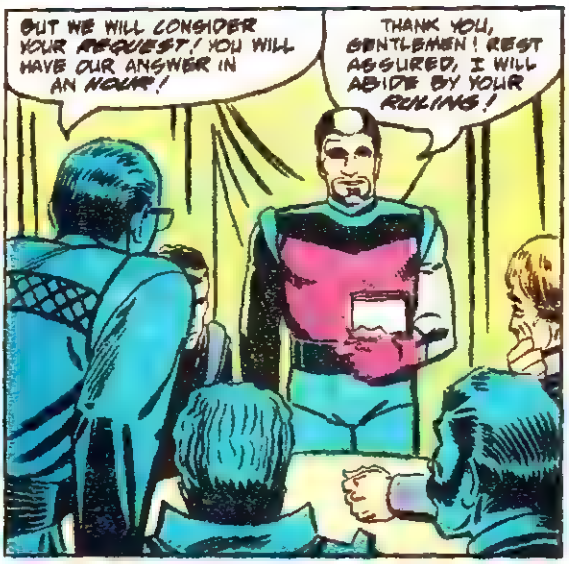
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

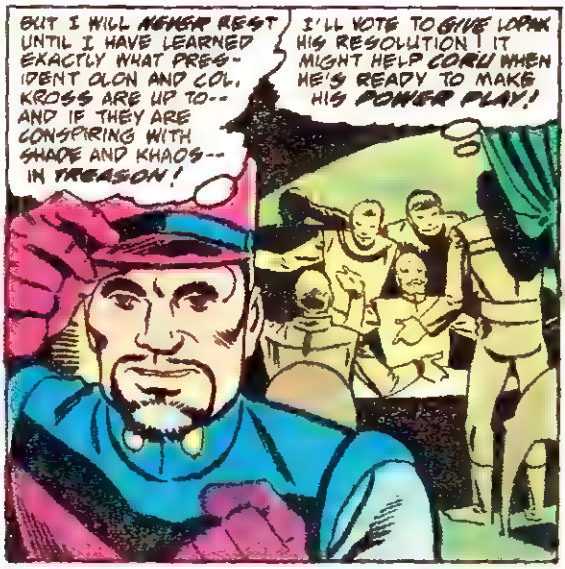
Offer expires February 1, 1979. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT FORM ANY FACE I DESIRE, OR MAINTAIN A FACIAL FORM FOR AS LONG AS I WOULD LIKE!
SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO STALL THIS MADMAN -- UNTIL MY N-AGENT CHECKS IN AND I CAN GIVE HIM THE CODE ALERT!

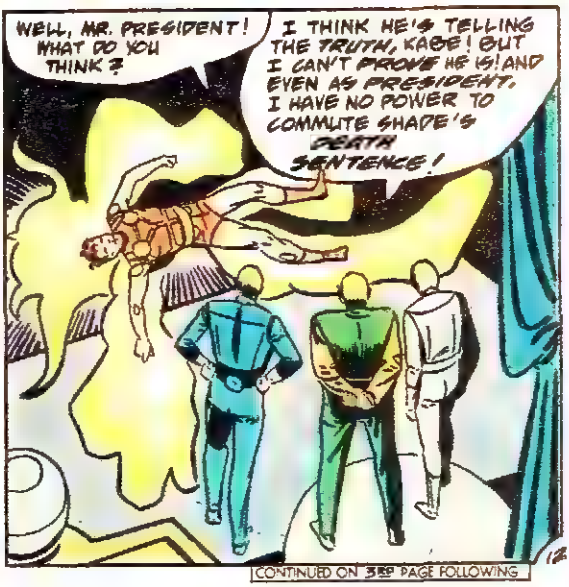

HA HA! DON'T LOOK SO GLUM, WIZOR! IMAGINE WHAT A PANIC META IS IN RIGHT NOW!
DEBATE? WHAT'S THERE TO DEBATE ABOUT? WE'RE HELPLESS -- WAITING FOR DR. Z.Z. TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE!
PLEASE, COL. LOPAK! CONTINUE!


YOU'VE HEARD MY MEMS, GENTLEMEN! SOMETHING UNUSUAL IS OCCURRING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE! IF I'M TO INVESTIGATE IT, I'LL NEED THE AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE SECURITY COMMITTEE!
SEARCHING THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IS A SERIOUS MATTER, COL. LOPAK!


BUT WE WILL CONSIDER YOUR REQUEST! YOU WILL HAVE OUR ANSWER IN AN HOUR!
THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN! REST ASSURED, I WILL ABIDE BY YOUR RULING!


BUT I WILL NEVER REST UNTIL I HAVE LEARNED EXACTLY WHAT PRESIDENT OLON AND COL. KROSS ARE UP TO -- AND IF THEY ARE CONSPIRING WITH SHADE AND KHAOS -- IN TREASON!
I'LL VOTE TO GIVE LOPAK HIS RESOLUTION! IT MIGHT HELP CORU WHEN HE'S READY TO MAKE HIS POWER PLAY!

SHADE, MEANWHILE, HAS AWAKENED AND RESUMED HIS NARRATIVE. "BACK ON META," HE CONTINUES, "I MADE A PERSONNEL CHECK, HOPING TO GET A LEAD ON THE CRIME RING. I DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE REGA, A JUNIOR SECURITY OFFICER..."
REGA



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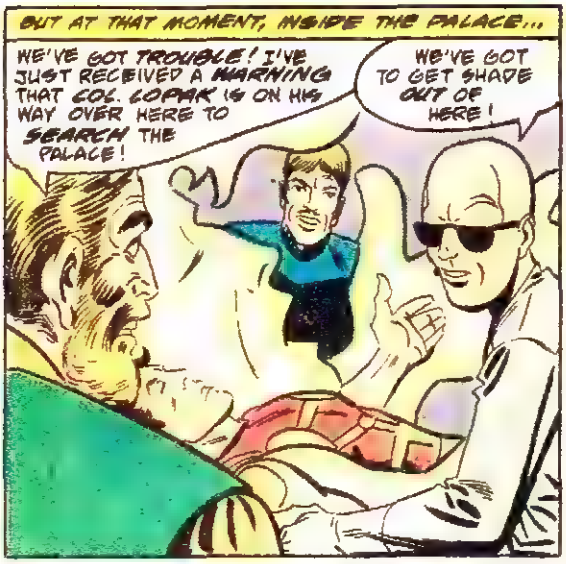
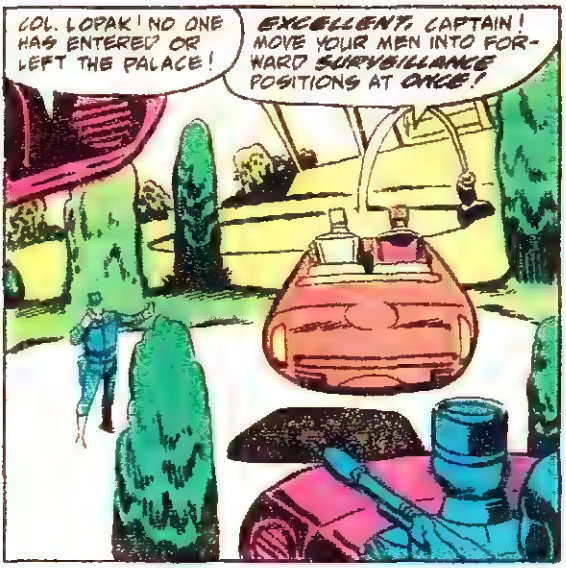
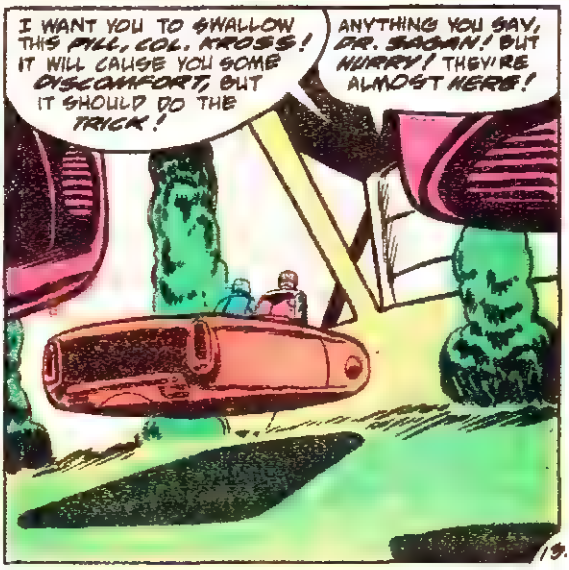
MEANWHILE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY HAS DEBATED COL. LOPAK'S REQUEST, AND...
YOU'RE AUTHORIZED TO SEARCH THE PALACE, COLONEL! A COMMITTEE MEMBER WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TO ENSURE THAT ALL APPROPRIATE PROPRIETIES ARE OBSERVED!
OF COURSE! THANK YOU, SIR!

I'VE KEPT THE PALACE UNDER TIGHT SURVEILLANCE EVER SINCE THE EXPLOSION THERE! * EVERYONE INSIDE WILL BE CAUGHT IN MY NET! AND ANY TRAITORS WILL HAVE TO ANSWER DIRECTLY TO ME!
*SHADE #6. --JCH.


BUT AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE PALACE...
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE! I'VE JUST RECEIVED A WARNING THAT COL. LOPAK IS ON HIS WAY OVER HERE TO SEARCH THE PALACE!
WE'VE GOT TO GET SHADE OUT OF HERE!

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT! IF I KNOW LOPAK, HE ALREADY HAS THE BUILDING SEALED OFF!
THEN SHADE HAS TO BE HIDDEN INSIDE THE BUILDING, KADE! B-BUT WHERE?

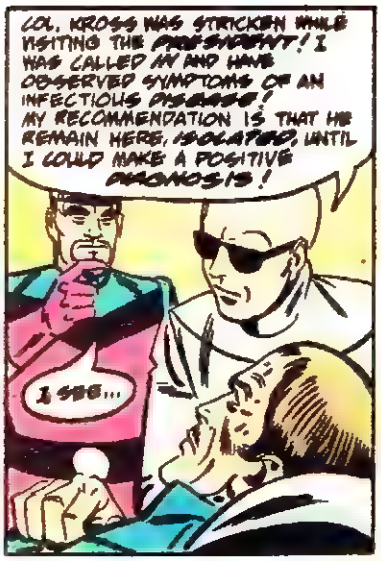

COL. LOPAK! NO ONE HAS ENTERED OR LEFT THE PALACE!
EXCELLENT, CAPTAIN! MOVE YOUR MEN INTO FORWARD SURVEILLANCE POSITIONS AT ONCE!


I WANT YOU TO SWALLOW THIS PILL, COL. KROSS! IT WILL CAUSE YOU SOME DISCOMFORT, BUT IT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, DR. SAGAN! BUT HURRY! THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!

WE REGRET THIS SEARCH ORDER, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT INTERNAL SECURITY REQUIRES IT! WHERE IS COL. KROSS?
THIS WAY, COL. LOPAK! I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM!

THE REST OF YOU FAN OUT! ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL YOU FIND, BRING THEM TO ME!
I ONLY HOPE THIS WORKS! IF THEY SHOULD FIND SHADE HERE--!

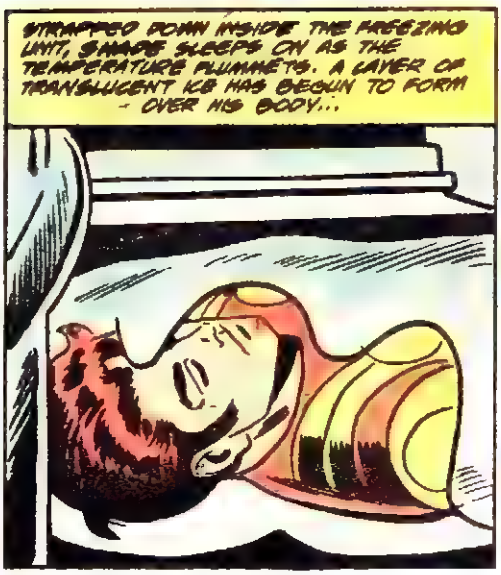
DR. SAGAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH COL. KROSS?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE, COLONEL!

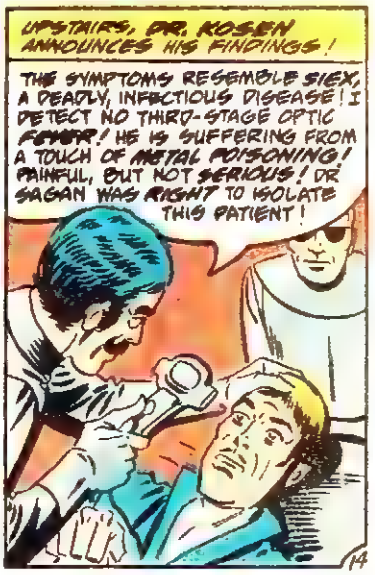

COL. KROSS WAS STRICKEN WHILE VISITING THE PRESIDENT! I WAS CALLED IN AND HAVE OBSERVED SYMPTOMS OF AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE! MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT HE REMAIN HERE, ISOLATED, UNTIL I COULD MAKE A POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS!
I SEE...

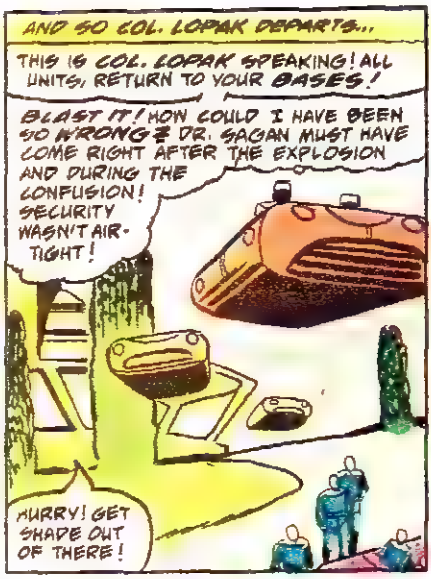
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, DR. SAGAN, A SECOND MEDICAL OPINION WOULD BE IN ORDER! SERGEANT! SUMMON DR. KOSEN!
I'D WELCOME DR. KOSEN'S OPINION, COLONEL!

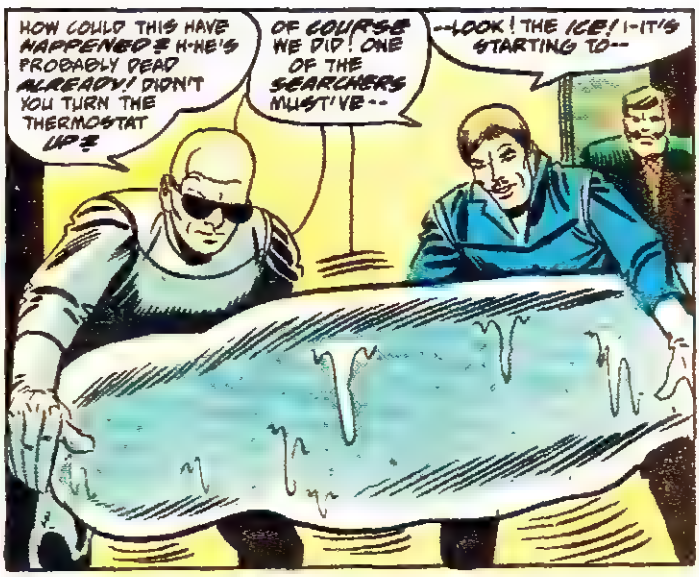
MEANWHILE THE SEARCH CONTINUES...
BRRRR! NO ONE COULD HIDE IN THIS FREEZER FOR LONG, THAT'S FOR SURE!

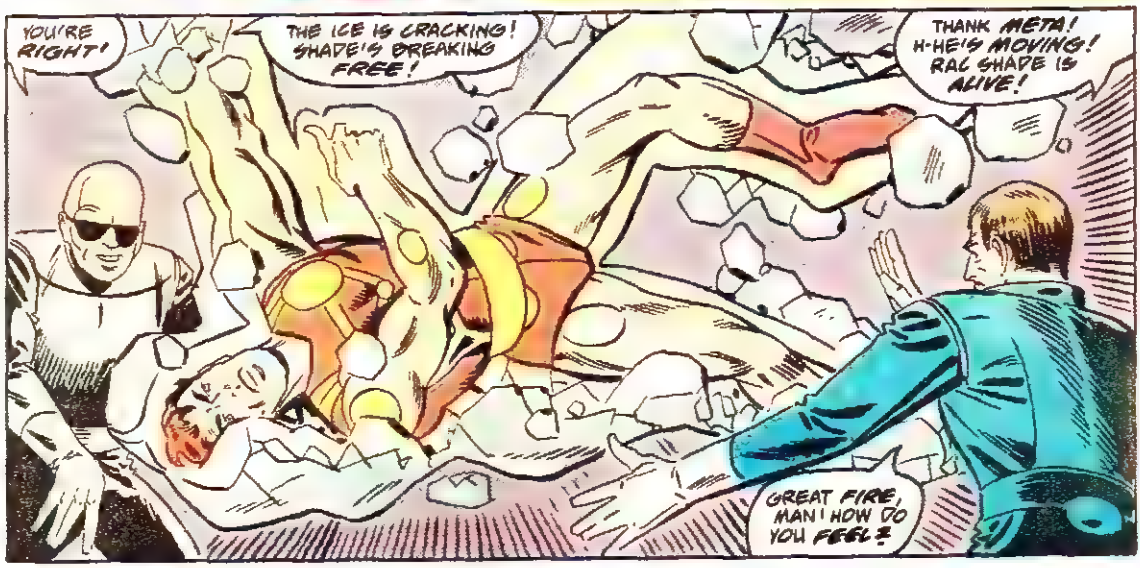
BUT THAT SETTING SEEMS AWFULLY HIGH! I'D BETTER RESET IT! IT WOULDN'T DO FOR ALL THE FOOD-STUFFS INSIDE THERE TO SPOIL!


STRAPPED DOWN INSIDE THE FREEZING UNIT, SHADE SLEEPS ON AS THE TEMPERATURE PLUMMETS. A LAYER OF TRANSLUCENT ICE HAS BEGUN TO FORM - OVER HIS BODY...


UPSTAIRS, DR. KOSEN ANNOUNCES HIS FINDINGS!
THE SYMPTOMS RESEMBLE SIEX, A DEADLY, INFECTIOUS DISEASE! I DETECT NO THIRD-STAGE OPTIC FEVER! HE IS SUFFERING FROM A TOUCH OF METAL POISONING! PAINFUL, BUT NOT SERIOUS! DR SAGAN WAS RIGHT TO ISOLATE THIS PATIENT!

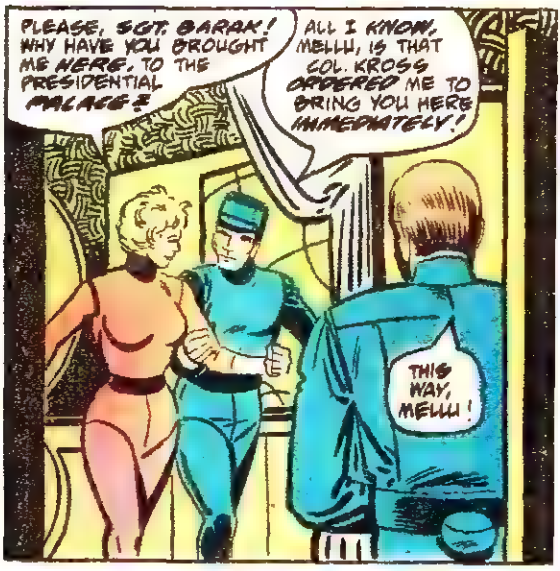

AND SO COL. LOPAK DEPARTS...
THIS IS COL. LOPAK SPEAKING! ALL UNITS, RETURN TO YOUR BASES!
BLAST IT! HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO WRONG? DR. SAGAN MUST HAVE COME RIGHT AFTER THE EXPLOSION AND DURING THE CONFUSION! SECURITY WASN'T AIR-TIGHT!
HURRY! GET SHADE OUT OF THERE!


HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED? H-HE'S PROBABLY DEAD ALREADY! DIDN'T YOU TURN THE THERMOSTAT UP?
OF COURSE WE DID! ONE OF THE SEARCHERS MUST'VE--
--LOOK! THE ICE! I-IT'S STARTING TO--


YOU'RE RIGHT!
THE ICE IS CRACKING! SHADE'S BREAKING FREE!
THANK META! H-HE'S MOVING! RAL SHADE IS ALIVE!
GREAT FIRE, MAN! HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I NEVER FELT BETTER! FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I CAME OUT OF MY COMA, I'M IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY BODILY MOVEMENTS--AND THE M-VEST!

WELL, MR. PRESIDENT, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
I'VE BEEN GIVING THAT SOME THOUGHT, SHADE! AND I'VE COME UP WITH A PROPOSITION!



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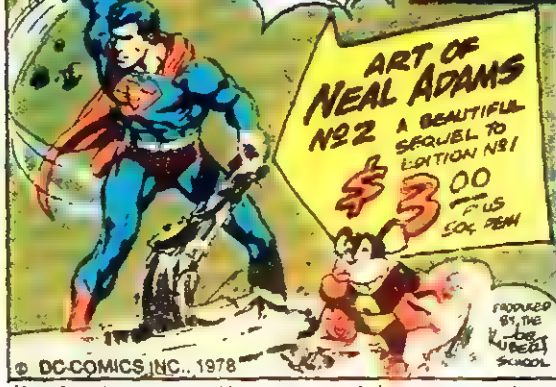

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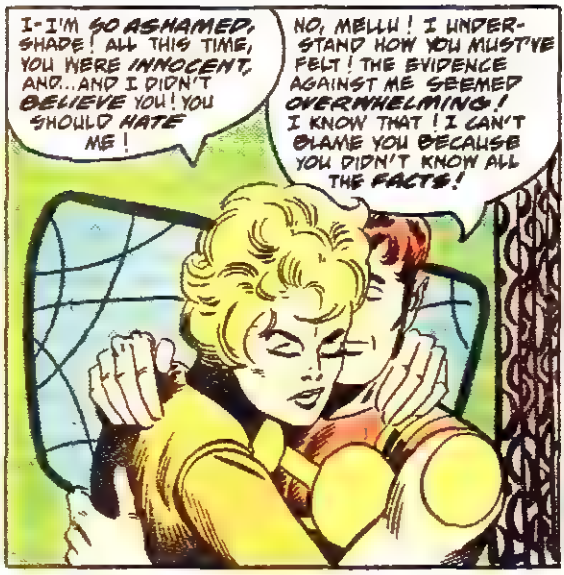
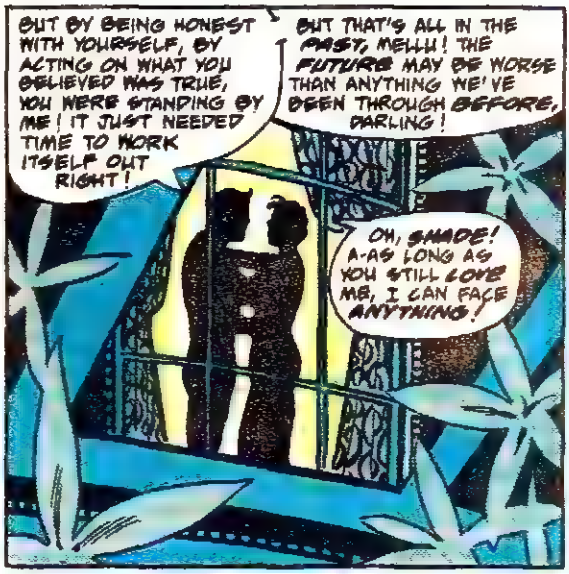
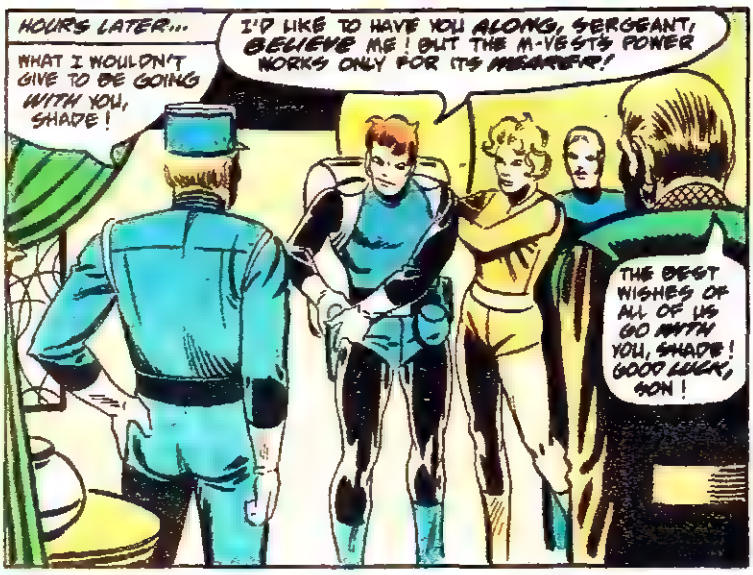
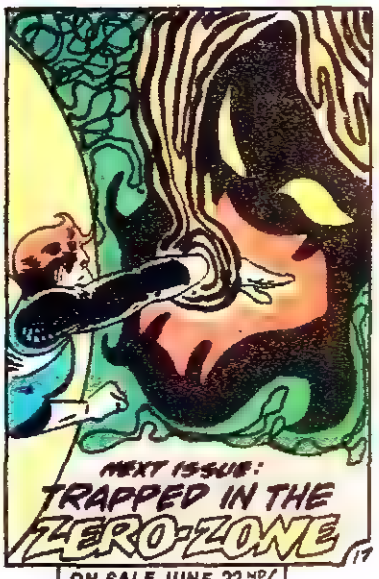

I-I'M SO ASHAMED, SHADE! ALL THIS TIME, YOU WERE INNOCENT, AND...AND I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU SHOULD HATE ME!
NO, MELLU! I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST'VE FELT! THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ME SEEMED OVERWHELMING! I KNOW THAT! I CAN'T BLAME YOU BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW ALL THE FACTS!


BUT BY BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF, BY ACTING ON WHAT YOU BELIEVED WAS TRUE, YOU WERE STANDING BY ME! IT JUST NEEDED TIME TO WORK ITSELF OUT RIGHT!
BUT THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST, MELLU! THE FUTURE MAY BE WORSE THAN ANYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH BEFORE, DARLING!
OH, SHADE! A-AS LONG AS YOU STILL LOVE ME, I CAN FACE ANYTHING!

FOR A MAN WHO'S BEEN ON RECUPERATIVE LEAVE, SGT. BARAK, YOU'VE BEEN A VERY BUSY MAN! AS OF NOW, YOU'RE ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO ME! HERE! I WANT THIS EQUIPMENT LIST FILLED IMMEDIATELY! AND I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT!
YESSIR!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KADE? WILL SHADE BE ABLE TO STOP DR. I. I.?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A FINER MAN FOR THE JOB, MR. PRESIDENT! BUT WITH THE ODDS WEIGHTED AS HEAVILY AGAINST HIM AS THEY ARE, I JUST DON'T KNOW, SIR! I JUST DON'T KNOW!


HOURS LATER...
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO BE GOING WITH YOU, SHADE!
I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU ALONG, SERGEANT, BELIEVE ME! BUT THE M-VEST'S POWER WORKS ONLY FOR ITS WEARER!
THE BEST WISHES OF ALL OF US GO WITH YOU, SHADE! GOOD LUCK, SON!


NEXT ISSUE:
TRAPPED IN THE ZERO-ZONE
ON SALE JUNE 22ND!

mysterious messages to the META-ZONE

L-956

c/o DC COMICS, INC. 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Metans,

SHADE has the potential to rival Kirby's **NEW GODS** when it comes to intrigue, complexity and intelligence. On the surface, **SHADE** is fun, escapism and delightful, but upon closer observation it proves to go beyond that. Ditko has accomplished the goal of all fantasy writers. Gentlemen, he has created a world!!

Perhaps the most appealing thing about **SHADE** is the fact that there is an air of mystery about the series. What are the full powers of the M-Vest? Where exactly is the Meta-Zone? I do hope Ditko has definite plans to answer these questions (sometime).

I agree with Al Schroder in that beyond an occational visual treat, **Shade**'s changing powers are rather unimpressive. Surely a device that is held in such awe is able to do more than project illusions! My personal belief is that, unknown to **Shade**, the M-Vest holds the Ultimate Power: Mind Over Matter!

This doesn't really matter since the potential intrigue and adventure is what I'm interested in. But it does make the title of the book inappropiate. What not cut off "the Changing Man" and leave it simply **"Shade?"**

As to the other points of controversy, I'm against cross-overs until say, issue #50 when everything has been settled in regard to the questions mentioned earlier. Also, I love Fleisher's "wordy" captions. And finally, I'm all for making **Shade** a monthly!

Rex Arnold
Huntsville, Ala.

What makes you think all your questions will be answered by issue #50, Rex? Heh, heh, we're just getting started! "SHADE—THE CHANGING MAN" not only refers to his M-Vest powers (which we've explained a bit more in detail in the last few issues), but also to the fact that he changes from fugitive to hero, from Meta-Zone dweller to Zero-Zone inhabitant, to Earth-Zone visitor. The name will stay as is. And we agree with you—Ditko *HAS* created a "world." But we believe even *MORE*. Steve has created a universe!—JCH

* * * * *

Dear DC People,

SHADE—THE CHANGING MAN #5 was super, but there were three things I didn't understand:

1. Why did Meilu despise **Shade** at first?
2. For what could Sude use the M-Vest?
3. Why did the man in the power suit want to rescue Shade?

Robert Aldridge
1123 N. Andrews Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

A quick question and answer period for those of you who came in late: 1. Meilu was convinced (until the revelations in SHADE #5) that Rec Shade was responsible for the cripling of her parents. She now believes that Sude—the Supreme Decider was the culprit. Ironically, the villain Sude is secretly her comatose Mother!

2. The powers of the M-Vest are partially unknown, but they have (under Shade's direction) proven to be awesome indeed. Many Metan criminals are convinced the M-Vest is the ultimate weapon!

3. The "man in the power suit" happens to be a *FRIEND* of Shade's. Check out Panel 1 on Page 14 and, if you're sharp, you'll learn the masked man's identity.

Don't miss any future issues of SHADE and you'll be certain to keep up with this fantastic epic-in-the-making—JCH

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

SHADE has become an exemplary series of late. In the last three issues most of my serious doubts have been dispelled. The main reason I've enjoyed them is that the setting has been Meta, rather than Earth. The alien locale is more suited to Ditko's rampant creativity (and if he has a fault it's in his rendering of earth fashions). Besides, the "super-aliens-slug-it-out-on-Earth" theme is being done in **NEW GODS.** I realize that **Shade** will be returning to the Earth-Zone, but please keep him on Meta the majority of the time. It makes the series unique.

Artistically, Ditko's **SHADE** ranks with his (definitive) Spider-Man. My only request is that **SHADE** occasionally be depicted solely as he appears to the villains, and not as a superimposed image.

And while the concepts and plots are Ditko's, Michael Fleisher is also to be congratulated for the smoothness and clarity with which these intricate stories flow. If Jack *Kirby had the foresight to hire a dialogue person . . .*

SHADE #6 was another fine effort. The pacing was excellent and the plot was never overlooked. Khaos was vile, wicked, and graphically striking—as all **SHADE** villains should be. I particularly enjoyed the large panels of **SHADE'S** battles with Khaos. Often overdone by many artists, it's fresh, well done approach by Ditko. And the last page! Who could possibly miss the next issue? All which proves that **SHADE** is one of the least static, most entertaining comics around.

By all mean keep it up, and bring out a monthly **SHADE!**

Tom Hamilton
815-B, Groton Ct.
Dayton, Ohio 45431

Sorry, but our yearly schedule doesn't permit us a monthly SHADE at the present time, but there is MORE of Ditko coming in SHADE. How is this possible? Simple! The DC EXPLOSION'S shock waves reach *SHADE next issue as the world meets—THE ODD* MAN! It's Steve Ditko's newest creation. And if you think SHADE is unusual, wait'll you meet THE ODD MAN. We're not certain the world is even ready. But he'll be here in just 60 days—ready or not!—JCH

* * * * *

Be brave! Send a letter or card to: MYSTERIOUS MESSAGES TO THE META-ZONE, DC Comics, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019!

COMING THIS SUMMER!! THE DC EXPLOSION! BIG BARDA

THE DC FEATURE PAGE

Q: Why hasn't *Mirror Master* used his leg-switching mirror that he used on *The Flash* in *FLASH* #146?—Eric Tuttobene. *A:* We'd guess *MM* decided not to try the same gimmick twice. After all, it didn't stop *The Flash* from locking him up the first time!

Q: How come *Starfire* always wore different clothes?—Jimmy Fears. *A:* With all the fighting she did, her outfits got a bit dirty, so she changed them. (You didn't see any laundromats on her world, did you?)

Q: Is *The Batman* dead?—Stewart Sweeney. *A:* If he is, it's news to us . . . and him!

Q: Why is it that *Aquaman* can't be called on a *JLA* mission?—Kevin Moncrief. *A:* Who says he can't? *Aquaman* has a *JLA* signal device just like the rest of the *Leaguers*.

Q: What are the identities of *Golden Eagle, Hawk* and the *Dove*, and are they related?—Shaun Henry. *A:* *Golden Eagle* is Charley Parker, but he is not related to Hank and Don Hall, the brothers who are *Hawk* and the *Dove*.

Q: Is the *Legend of King Arthur* book going to come out or not?—Scott Myers. *A:* There are no plans for publication at this time.

Q: Are *The Atom, Metamorpho* or *The Shadow* going to get their own mags back? And how about *Green Arrow* in his own book?—David Hurd. *A:* *The Atom* will appear in every other issue of *ACTION*, but there are no plans for *Metamorpho* or *The Shadow*. And *Green Arrow* shares star billing with *GREEN LANTERN*, while appearing in his own *WORLD'S FINEST* feature!

Q: Will the *Green Hornet* and *Kato* ever return to the comics?—Billy Taylor. *A:* *DC* never had the rights to the team, so we would have nothing to do with it if they did!

Q: Will we be seeing more of *Air Wave* in *GREEN LANTERN*?—Glenn Walker. *A:* No, but you'll see plenty of him in his own feature in *ACTION COMICS*, alternating with *The Atom!*

Q: When did *DC* publish the war feature *Lt. Hunter's Hellcats*?—Tony Schlucter. *A:* They appeared in *OUR FIGHTING FORCES* #99-106!

Q: Can you answer my questions by mail?—Eddie Schmidt. *A:* Sorry, but ye *Answer Man* is so swamped with questions, the only way I can get to any of them is in this column! Which reminds me, if YOU have a question for the Answer Man, send it to Bob Rozakis, DC Comics, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019.

dc profiles number 36 * gerry conway *

Gerry Conway got his start in comics by *not* selling stories. He didn't sell them to then-DC editors Mort Weisinger, Robert Kanigher, George Kashdan, and Dick Giordano.

Undaunted by those initial defeats, Gerry persisted in his ambition to be a comics writer. He would show up at the offices and ask questions of Dick Giordano who, miraculously, didn't kick him out. Those question-and-answer sessions turned into long discussions which editor Murray Boltinoff assumed were plot conferences—so he asked the eager young man to script a story for DC's mystery inventory. Gerry ended up rewriting the three-pager six times—but he sold his first story.

After that, it was easier for the fledgling writer. He wrote mystery and love books and even handled *The Phantom Stranger* for a short while before moving to Marvel in 1969.

He soon gained a reputation as one of the fastest and most reliable writers in the business. When DC and Marvel decided to co-publish a tabloid comic in 1976 starring *Superman* and *Spider-man*, Gerry won the coveted scripting assignment.

Since then, he has scripted several other tabloids for DC, namely last year's *Superman-Wonder Woman* battle and this year's *Superman-Shazam* and *Justice League* editions.

But Gerry keeps busy on DC's regular comics, too. His recent credits include *Superman, Batman, Justice League of America, Green Arrow-Black Canary, Firestorm, Steel* (the latter two his creations), and two new heroes whom you'll be hearing about in coming weeks.

In addition, Gerry has written four science fiction novels and several short stories for the likes of *Amazing, Fantastic*, and *Last Dangerous Visions*.

In 1972, Gerry met playwright Carla Joseph at a party hosted by science fiction writer Harlan Ellison and married her a year-and-a-half later. Today, they're settling into their new home in Southern California, making plans to break into film or tv as a husband-and-wife writing team. They've been sighted in the office of major studios, but they haven't sold any stories—yet.

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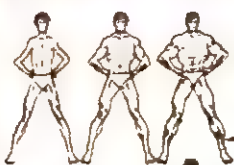

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☐ **BACK** — Develop your upper back, and get that outstanding "V-Shape!" Often within one week you'll be able to see that wedge formation begin to take shape — it's a real attention-getter!

☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!

☐ *LEGS — Put some muscle on* those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!

☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!

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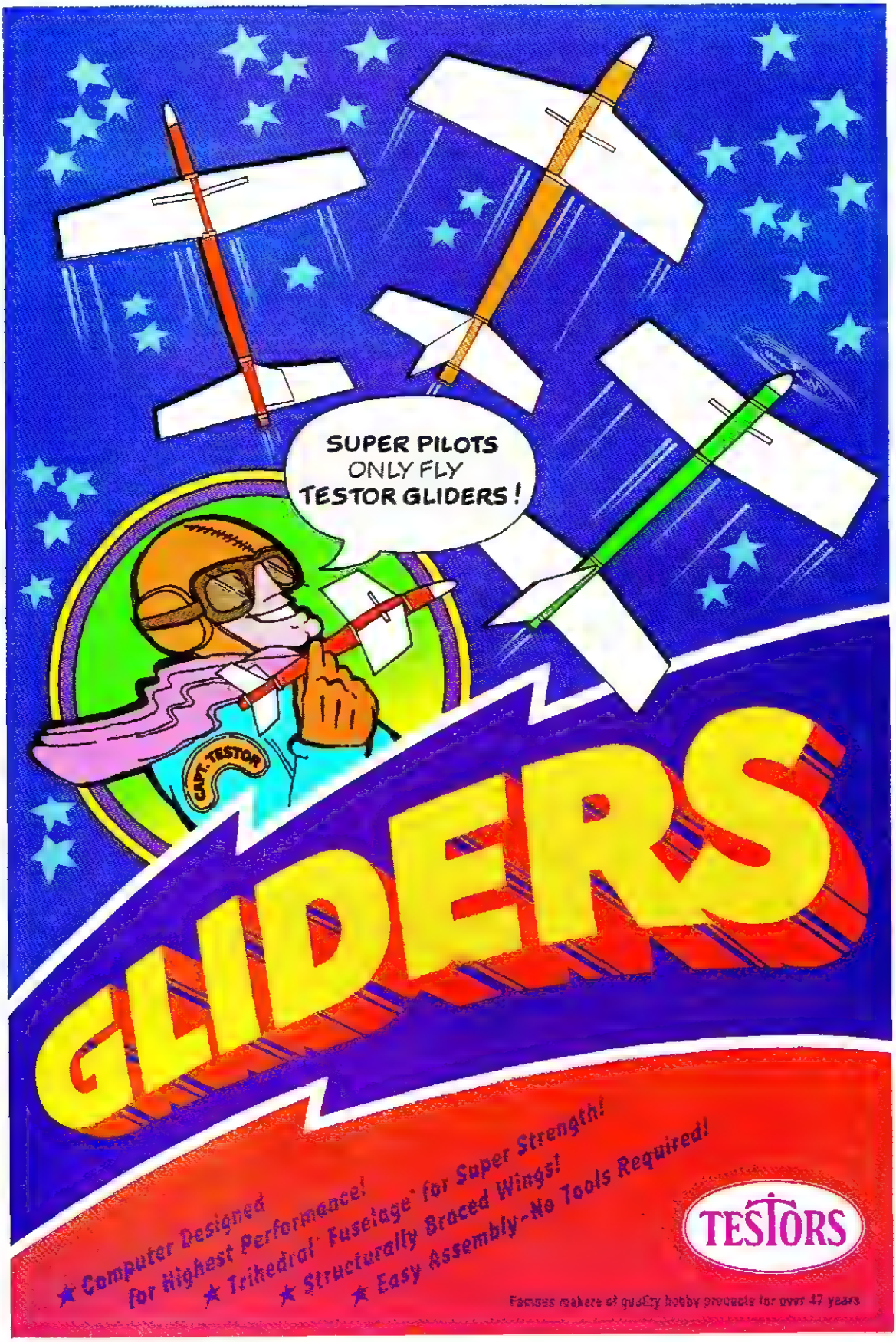
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August/September 1978 — DC Comics

"The Gambles"

concept/art: Steve Ditko — dialogue: Michael Fleisher — lettering: Clem Robins
editer: Jack C. Harris — coloring: Jerry Serpe

last issue